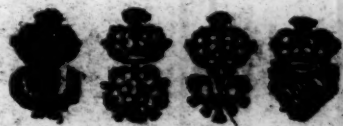


A TRUE
NARRATIVE
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS
OF
His Majesties
PRIVY COUNCIL
IN
SCOTLAND.

*For Securing the PEACE of that KINGDOM
In the Year, 1678.*

Published by Authority.



EDINBURGH,

Printed by the Heir of *Andrew Anderson*, Printer to His Most
Sacred Majesty, Anno Dom. 1678.

A true Narrative of the Proceedings of His Majesties Privy Council in Scotland, for Securing the Peace of that Kingdom, in Anno 1678.



Here can nothing be so unpleasant to His *Majesties* Judicatours, as to punish; nor for Honest men than to publish the errors of their own Countrey-men; and though the Fatall Consequences which did late y follow upon the like Distempers, may Create in all thinking men an extraordinar abhorrence of such courses: Yet since such as find no Saffie but in the common Distractions, and no pleasure save in the Universal Confusions of both State and Church, have so succesfully poisoned some, and endeavoured so industriously to poison many of His *Majesties* other Subjects in all His Dominions: It is hoped that a true Narrative of these proceedings will not be unwelcome.

It is too well known how after that Episcopacy was established by Authority, in both thir Kingdoms, as that Government which was most agreeable to the Word of GOD, and the practise of the Primitive Church, and suited best with Monarchie; Some Factionous persons here did much disturbe the Reign of that wise Prince King *James*: And overthrew the Government under that pious Prince King *Charles* the first, in which Rebellion (that grew up by plausible degrees, too like our present proceedings) under the specious disguises of Liberty and Religion, GOD punished us so appositely, that these Parliaments which lusted so after boundless Liberty, were absolutely turned out from any Share in the Government, and that new Modell'd Church, which violently grasped at, even all the Civil Government, was rent in pieces by its own viperous brood the Remonstrators, and fell from having any esteem with those Usurpers whom they had raised.

These Disorders did first take rise, and had their chief maintenance from some *Western-Shires* in this Kingdom, who having been the chief Actors in every Scene of that Bloody and Tragical Rebellion, were so far from wearying or repenting of having opposed their Native Prince, that they persecuted both in Church and State, such of their former Associates as resolved to return to their Dutie, and to hazard all in Rescuing their King from that imprisonment, which they well foresaw was the first step to the Scaffold: And

these Rebels being inflamed at a Communion in *Machlan*, they most rebelliously fought against His *Majesties* best Troops ; and after that worthy Attempt, for rescuing His *Majesty* from his Imprisonment, 1648. was disappointed : They did again form their own Tennants in an Army, and therewith Invade and Plunder the *Lothians* and other adjacent Shires, and such as were weary of the insolence of that Party, having called home Our present Monarch, these Shires, to disappoint the opposition made to *Cromwel*, drew a Remonstrance, and divided from His *Majesties* Forces, and declared be an Act at the *West-Kirk*, that if His *Majesty* would not grant the Concessions then propoled to Him, and whereby all His Prerogatives were to be scrud from Him, they would not owne His Government : And GOD having suffered His *Majesties* Armies to be beat at *Worcester*, these Remonstrators did by all possible Insinuations, endeavour to gain the Usurpers favour, and did persecute such as had owned His *Majesty* whilst he was in *Scotland*.

After His *Majesties* Restauration, which GOD had made so miraculous, to confute the insolent Appeals, which those people had alwayes made to his extraordinar Providence, and to disappoint the expectations of that Party, who resolved to burden his Return, with such Concessions as they had formerly extorted in *anno* 1650. His *Majesty* and His Parliament, as the Representatives of the Nation, did unanimously restore Episcopacy, but so moderately, that no sober man could complain ; and though many of a different Perswasion, deserted their Charge in the Ministry, yet all save some Remonstrators, frequented the Ordinances, and lived most peaceably, but the chief of these moderate men dying, some Remonstrators who were irreclaimable, fearing the Schism might die out, admitted some young men to the Ministry, contrarie to the Principle of their own Assemblies, which condemned *Ministeria vaga*, and contrarie to the expresse Laws of this Kingdom, which make these punishable by death, and they with the help of these hot-headed young men, having inflamed some of their old Western friends, (for it cannot be denied, but there are very honest and loyal persons in those Shires) into a Rebellion in *anno* 1666. whilst His *Majesty* was, as they conceived, unable to oppose both them, and those forreign enemies, with whom he was ingadged then in a dangerous War, it pleased GOD to bless His *Majesty* with a total Victory over them : But yet His *Majesty*, whose Clemency is as extraordinary as his Restauration, was so far from pursuing his Victory with Revenge, that he yielded to the importunat Intercession of those who promised, That the Indulging some Paroches in the West, to have Ministers of their own perswasion, would settle all those Distempers ; And though His *Majesty* was pleased



pleased to try this, and all other means of reclaiming those Shires, and to bestow upon these Ministers the Salarie due only by Law to the Orthodox Clergie, yet those of that party, finding their Rebellion so successful, concluded, that the same Force, which had procured that, might procure more, and so they established new and flying Rendezvouses of Rebellion called *Field Conventicles*, in which, under pretext of Preaching, all Lawless and disaffected persons, got constant occasions of assembling themselves and adjusting their malicious Designs, and of infusing into the people (in such remote places, far from the observation of all wise and judicious men) whatever their Malice could suggest against the King, His Laws, and government, and from which as the true Nurseries of Rebellion, it was most easie for them to form and model themselves into Armies, when those designs were fully ripened, as they had formerly done in anno 1666. which Rebellion was but a running and continued Field Conventicle, fed constantly by such as came to hear their Ministers, who then governed them, preach upon that long March. They having in a Field Conventicle at the *Glenkens* kept their first Rendezvous, from which they sent a party to *Dumfries*, and surpris'd a part of His Majesties Forces, and thence having gone to another Field Conventicle in *Cumnock*, they proceeded to others at *Aire, Kilmarnock, Machlen, Strevin, Lanerk*, after which they Conventicl'd on to *Pentland*, where, by their being beat, this Kingdom was restored to its former Peace and Quiet: And in which Field Conventicles, the Covenant, which is condemned as treasonable by the Law, was constantly preached up, and people taken upon Oath, bound by it to reform *England* and *Ireland*, as well as *Scotland*, and to bring all Delinquents to condigne punishment; nor was the Church and all Christian Discipline, in less danger from them; for the people were led out to hear such as for fear of revealing, they were obliged not to know, and so *Jesuits*, *Anabaptists*, and any Sectarie might have securely possess'd those ignorant creatures with what they pleased, and frequently did so, and these poor people being once alienated from the Church and its Discipline, found therein a sweet Liberty of staying from all Churches, and of being subject to no Discipline.

Upon which Considerations, the King, by Act of Parliament, did wisely declare, these Field Conventicles to be Rendezvouses of Rebellion, the Minister to be punishable by Death, and the Hearers by proportional Fines, notwithstanding of all which, and that such Meetings are destructive to all Government, unknown to, and unallowed by any Christian Society, and preached against by the sober part of their own principles; yet those Wilde-hill-preachers, did still continue and heighten their fury to that degree, that such of their own party as took Indulgences from the Council, were railed at, and

in Disdain, called Council-Curats : And such as Officiated under Bishops, were frequently Robb'd and assaulted in their own houses , and threatened with such probable Cruelties , that they were forced to Relinquish their Charge. And to possess the People with a belief of their Establishment ; they contrar to expresse Laws , kept Presbyteries , Synods , and other Assemblies, entertain'd Correspondence with the Disaffected Subjects of His *Majesties* other Kingdoms, and kept Armed men as Guards for their Ring-leaders, Preaching in all places the Lawfulness of Resisting the Civil Magistrat ; the Unlawfulness of taking the Oath of Allegiance ; that Episcopacy was Ante-Christian , all who owned them were Perjured , and Enemies to CHRIST : and the Parliaments and Laws by which they were Established were Impious and Sacrilegious. And to convince the World, what might have been expected from these, if they had Prevailed , let any man read those Books Printed by them , wherein at their lowest Ebb, they invite all men to oppose Authority , as to a Duty to which they were in the Covenant obliged upon Oath, and to kill all such as served His *Majestie*, by the Example of *Phineas*, which Books poisoned so far those whom their former Principles had prepared that some of them adventured , even to assault His *Majesties* Counsellors upon the chief Streets of His chief City here, and in the face of the Sun, and having in cold Blood maintained it, and died Justifying it , are to this day numbred amongst their best Martyrs.

These Enemies of all Order waiting all Opportunities that might distract, or adde to the other Distractions of their Native Countrey, finding in *Anno* 1674. that some Members of Parliament had in several things contraverted His *Majesties* Authority, and differed from His Ministers, they immediately flew out in *Fyffe* and other Shires, to such heights, that they dar'd to Usurp some Pulpit even in *Edinburgh*, and to Convocat in great numbers about the doors of His *Majesties* Privy Council, with most insolent Petitions, tracing carefully the execrable steps of our former Rebellion. But His *Majesties* Prudence and the Care of His Privy Council, having Quashed those Appearances, His *Majesties* Authority did for some time over-aw, though not reclaim them; but hearing that His *Majesty* was like to be involved in a new Forrain War, they again assembled in mighty numbers in *October* and *November* 1677. and did violently invade the Pulpits, and persons of the Orthodox Clergie, and so threaten all with sudden and great revolutions , and resisted so frequently and insolently such as came to them in His *Majesties* Name , Killing some and Wounding many ; that the Privy Council thought it necessar to write to the Sheriffs of those Shires, to require an account of their Diligence in repressing such Disorders, who informed them that

that they could not get either Officers to cite the Offenders, or men to buy their goods that were Distrained, and that their numbers and contumacie were such that they dispaired of all Success: And even the Council found that such as were Cited before them, contemned still their Citations, and by constant absences added to the former number of Rebels: nor was it possible to Represse those Field-Conventicles, by Legal Proecesses, both because the far greatest part had nothing to pay, and so feared not the payment of these fines imposed by Law, and it was impossible to discover who were present at them, because they stopt by Armed-men any from coming near them, who were not of their own Principle. Whereupon the Council finding all the Ordinar Legal Courses fail, they wrote to the Commissioners of Excise, and Justices of Peace, of the Shires of *Air*, and *Renfrew*, which did comprehend most of the Nobility and Gentry of those Shires, and Invited and Impowered them to take such Courses as might secure the Peace of the Kingdom, and His *Majesties* other good Subjects, against the Jealousies and Fears arising from such Tumultuarie and Illegal Convocations: To which, they in a full Meeting, and after much Deliberation returned as an Answer, That these Disorders had spread so far, and were so deeply rooted that they thought it impossible either to settle the Countrey, or answer for their Tennants, except the King would allow them a new Indulgence: Which Answer, coming after the Councils Letters to other Shires of the like Tenor, were ready to be dispatched they stopp'd the same, fearing that the Example of thir Shires might draw in their Neighbours into the like Combination. And it being proposed in Council, whether it was fit to send unto these Shires the few standing Forces of this Kindom, It was urged by many, and very strongly, That the Commons there had so shaken off all Respect to Anthority, that they might probably Dis-arm those few Forces, and thereby both Disable the King to make any Defence, and Force themselves for maintaining that Guilt, to joyn all of their Party in an open Rebellion. Whereupon it was thought fitter to Arm some of His *Majesties* Militia-Regiments; And the Marquess of *Athol* first, and then others having offered their *High land men*, this was thought less Expensive and might prove more Formidable: and therefore was choosed by the Council, who had Resolved with as little Expence as could be to the Innocent shires, (for the Militia of these onely could be Armed) to fright these irregular Shires into an intire Submission to His *Majesties* Laws conceiving that it was much more Kind and Prudent to prevent earlie, and by one single expence, the Increase of those Rebellious Principles, and Practises which were daily ripening towards an open Rebellion, in which the whole Nation might have wished:

wished but in vain, that it had Redeemed it self by so short and small an expence, from the payment of such vast sums, and the Ruine of so many thousands as fell in the late unhappy wars, and to which they found those Disorders leading by the same Fatall Steps.

A Proclamation was also issued out in His *Majesties* Name, Discharging all Noblemen, and Gentlemen, to remove without Orders from the Council during this Service, which as it has been constantly practised in *Scotland*, so was necessar at this time both to restrain such as might abstract themselves from His *Majesties* Service at that exigent, and to retain such within the Kingdom, as should be found obliged to secure the peace, it being most ordinar for such as judged themselves obnoxious, to retire whilst His *Majesties* Forces were upon the place, and then return when they are gone, whereas upon the other hand, it was easie to seek a Warrant, and none was ever refused, to such as offered probable Reasons, which might take off the suspicion of their going away to elude the Proclamation, His *Majesties* Forces being assembled, it was resolved, That they should Disarme those Shires, a course formerly taken by the Council in the like case, in *March*, 1667. by the same persons who now complain, whilst they themselves were Councillors, and leading men, and which is, by Our exprest Laws, a part of Our Kings Prerogative: And in the next place, a Bond was offered, wherein every Heretor was obliged to answer for himself, his wife, and his children, under the penalties exprest in the Acts of Parliament, made by the universal Consent of the whole Nation, which obliges a man to answer for these Delinquencies of his wife and children: So that such as object, That no man can be answerable for his wife or children, or for any except himself, do either not understand Our Law, or do maliciously endeavour to perswade the people, that Our Laws are unjust: And it is observeable in all those fifth Monarchy-Presbyterians, that where Law can be any way wrested, they make much noise of Laws and Customes, but where that cannot be so debauched, they cry out against them as impious, and not binding. The Band did likewise oblige the masters, either to pay the Fynes of their Tenents, or to remove them after they were found guilty of contraveening his *Majesties* Laws, or else to present them when called for by His *Majesties* Judicatures, which was also most easie; For since these Alternatives were in every mans power, and since the Council judged this the onely expedient for securing the publick peace, and that it had been formerly practised in *October* 1666. even by Such as now shun to subscribe this Bond, though in that Proclamation issu'd out by them, all were Commanded and Charg'd under the pain of Rebellion, whereas this Bond was onely offered, and which Proclamation was much more ample
and

and severe, as the proclamation hereto annexed can clear. It is strange that any man should refuse to Contribute all that is in his power, to establish peace where there is such Hazard of Troubles; and the Reason why this expedient was thought on, was because the Council was not able to know, nor pursue every private Tennant or Servant: but these knowing that their Masters were bound, and the Masters knowing that they might be overtaken, this would make both very circumspect; and yet the penalties were only these to which the Tenents were lyable, by expresse Acts of Parliament: And in the last Band, all was sweetned by the former easie Alternatives; And by the first Act 3. Session of His *Majesties* first Parliament: The Parliament foreseeing, that new Methods would certainly be invented of disappointing the Remedies proposed in that Statute: And that it was not necessary, and would be expensive to convene Parliaments upon all such Occasions. They therefore Impowered the Council to inflict, not onely the Penalties therein mentioned, but such other Corporal punishments as they should think fit, and to do every thing that they should find necessary for procuring Obedience to that Act made by them against Separation and Disobedience to the Ecclesiastical Government, and which Power was indeed very proper to the Council, to whom by Our Law the administration of the Government is intrusted under His *Majesty*; and which Act they thought a sufficient Warrant of the Proclamation 1666. for obliging the Subjects to give Bonds, and for Denouncing of such as refused, and Declaring their Leases null: Whereas the Bond now is but onely offered, and by the paper subjoyned to this Narrative, it will clearly appear, that this Council was obliged by the practices of such as now complain, to do all that they have done, and was more necessary now than then, since these *Western-Shires* had not then risen in Rebellion, before October 1666. and Field Conventicles, were not then so numerous, whereas now they are Declared The Rendezvous of Rebellion: And how could this Council be answerable to suffer ten times more than His *Majesties* standing Forces to be assembled in Arms weekly, and in despite of Law, Or what Nation under the Heaven does suffer the like?

Yet this Bond was not pressed, but such as refused it when offered, were thereby thought to have given just Reason of Suspicion: And therefore as any private man may upon presumptions crave Surety from another, that they shall not trouble them; so the Council did justly crave this Legal Surety, called *Lamborrows*, from those who refused this Bond, which security is Consonant to all Law; and that the State have formerly sought the same as well as private men upon presumptions, and are still warranted to do so, is clear by 3. *Ed. 2. P. 2. Jus. 2.* Nor are two years rent too great a penalty, for though in

private Cases the pain or sum be small, because there every Justice of Peace may exact the same, yet in extraordinary Cases the pains have still been commensurate to the occasion, by the Privy Council and Justice Court, as is undenyable, nor can there be any Security, where there is not a commensuration betwixt the Surety and the Hazard: And who can deny that two years valued Rent (which amounts to little more, then one years true Rent) Is too great Security for the Peace of King and Kingdom, for if the Giver of that Security does diligence, and lives peaceably he payes nothing, and if he will not, he can never pay too much where the hazard is so great.

These Forces having marched, the Council by warrant from the King, Ordered them to take free Quarter, not absolutely, but according as the Council or Committee should allow; nor gave they ever absolute Order for free Quarter, but on the contrar they Ordained all such as should secure the Peace, to be freed from Quartering, and that the Fynes of the Delinquents should be employed for paying the Forces, who voluntarily contributed their assistance, but it was fit to insert free Quarter in the Commissions, because many Emergent Accidents might have made the same necessar. And the King having been put to raise Forces upon the foresaid tract of disobedience, and after all Ordinar Courses and Remedies had failed. Could there be any thing more just, than that these who justified the foresaid presumptions against themselves, in not finding Surety for the Peace, should have been the first advancers, and Quartered these Forces, then that these Quarters should have been payed by the innocent Shires, who sent out the Militia, or by those who voluntarily assisted and rais'd, and brought their Forces upon their own Expences: And to shew that the King resolved to take no advantage in this Quartering, but to ease the innocent, His Majesties own standing Forces payed daily every farthing. It is likewise offered to the Consideration of all who understand Our Government, whether it can be denyed, but that the Kings of *Scotland* had ever the Power to raise Forces for Quashing, even the appearances of Insurrections, for it were too late to prevent them when they are raised, and they never having a constant Cash, nor any suitable allowance for this effect, they constantly Quartered freely such as were raised upon that Account; nor was this ever Quarrelled till now. And as the Council of *Scotland* never asserted, that free Quarter was Lawful in time of Peace, so no reasonable man can deny, but that it is fit and necessar in time of trouble or presumption of Spilling the Countrey by unreasonable and unruleful men to raise the Countrey, as the *Act* of *Parliament* foresaid expressly bears, and when raised, Was it ever contraverted that those Countreys which gave occasion for that raising of Forces, should entertain them, there being no found or ready Cash destinated by Our Parliaments for that effect: And since by the 25. *Act* of the 3. *Sess.* first *Par.* *Char:* 2. The Parliaments does beside the Militia

Militia, give a power to the Council to Dispose and Manage that whole Affair, so as may best make the offer there made of their Lives and Fortunes, most effectually, and Declare that they will hazard their Lives and Fortunes, as they shall be called for by His Majesty, for the Safety and Preservation of His Sacred Person, Authority and Government, How can any good Subject deny so small an assistance to His Majesty, when His Authority was so Battered and Indangered, and where nothing was called for to His Majesties private Use and Advantage, but merely for their own Safety and Preservation. And albeit it may be too well argued, that these Shires were in a state of Rebellion, Field-Conventicles, being declared by Our Law Rendezvous of Rebellion, but there were not only such Field-Conventicles as were punishable by pecuniary fines, but Conventions of the people in arms, not accidentally or infrequently, but frequently and avowedly, and under the Conduct of many Ministers, who were either declared Traitors for being in that Rebellion in arms, *anno* 1666. or being declared Rebels by legal Sentences, since were Intercommunicated by open Proclamations, and who in all Countreys kept Correspondency, and renewed the treasonable Oath of the Covenant, railing against the King, His Laws and Servants, and after expresse Commands and Proclamations, discharging such Meetings, as tending to overthrow the Government of Church and State: And is not this such a degree of Rebellion, at least as when all Remedies failed, might have allowed quartering in such Shires, as entertained these Rendezvous of Rebellion without any Opposition? Yet such was the Clemency of Our Gracious Prince, and such the Moderation of His Council, as that they Ordained the Quarters to be payed out of the Fynes of the Delinquents, and that all such as offered to secure the Peace, should have none quartered in their Land, and albeit it is impossible to convocate so many men without some irregularities, yet so strict Instructions were given by the Council, and so great care was taken by the Committee and Officers, that fewer were committed from so great Numbers then could have been expected, and none were ever complained of to the Council or their Committee, which were not redressed, and the Clamours are raised by such only as resolve to cast an *Odium* upon all that serve His Majesty, and yet the Clamours against what is done in the West, are much greater in *Edinburgh* then in the Shires, who are said to have suffered, and greater at *London* then in *Edinburgh*, it might well be expected, that these Shires which had taken free Quarter themselves, without any just Quarrell or Order, would not quarrel that Quarter which had the King and Councils Order for its Warrant, and their own guilt for its occasion. But such Murmurers ought to consider, that by so doing, they discourage others for the future to assist the King freely, which is great unkindness to the King, and obliges the King to require a suitable Banding Force.

deserves little kindness from the Country, and that all this noise tends to lessen Our Security, and to heighten the Expectations of such as resolve to rebel, and by such Lies, the Last Rebellion was from a Spark blown to a Flame.

Whereas some assert, That the Council could not legally garrison the houses of private persons; The Answer is easie, for it were strange, that Our King should have the ordering of Peace and War, and yet might not garrison houses, when he sees great presumptions of Rebellion and Trouble, having no Forts nor Garrisons in those Shires, maintained upon the Charge of Our Nation, nor were any houses garrisoned here, save where the Proprietors refused to secure the Peace, or were found guilty of breaking it, or had other houses wherein they dwelt conveniently; and albeit the Commissioners of Excise were desired to furnish them with necessaries, yet these were to be repayed by the King, who could not make present preparations of such necessaries, without the assistance of such as lived in these Shires, and Bond was given for the re-payment: Our Gracious King and His Council here, have never persecuted tender Consciences, punishing only such as not content to serve God in a sober way, inflamed their Native Countrey with their irregular Zeal, and it is expected, that such as reflect upon what has been lately done by the King and His Council, should first remember the lamentable Miseries, into which this Nation was thrown by such, and even milder beginnings and actors, Our property disposed of arbitrarily by Committees, Our persons dragg'd to Prisons and Scaffolds, for obeying those whom it had been Treason to disobey, Our Nobility, and Gentry, insulted over by every humorous Minister, and his own Tenents in Kirk Sessions, Our Parliament made ridiculous and ineffectual by their general Assemblies, and if the Council had suffered such Practices to grow up unto open Rebellion, had not Our Neighbour Nation, as well as Our own just reason, to have condemned Our Clemency to these as Cruelty to them, and to demonstrate that Persons, not Things, are aimed at in these Misinformations. It is most observable, that His Majesties own Officers, as Sheriffs, and others who ought to have opposed, are these who complain most of the Opposition made to these Disorders, that have been fostered up by their Negligence or Connivance, and that when the King or Council do any thing to soften or reclaim these Embittered and Humorous Creatures, it is cryed out against as Indulgence, and when they do the least thing to restrain them, it is railed at by the same Authors as Tyranny; But since some in Our Nation, could not, nor yet cannot, be quiet under the kinde and gentle Government of King *JAMES*, King *CHARLES* the First, and Our present *Monarch*: And whilst the Remembrance of Our late Distractions are yet fresh with Us, what can be expected from such persons and principles in after Ages?

Some

Some, of very many Papers extracted out of the Registers of Privy Council, to shew what was the Practice of the then Council in such Cases, and what was their opinion of those Western-shires, and of the Acts of Parliament now founded on; all which Papers are subscribed by the greatest Lawyers who then were, and by the most eminent of those who now complain, when they are no more Counsellors themselves; and which may clear to all the world, that those who are now Counsellors, were by their determination and practice, obliged as well as warranted, to do what they have now done.

THere being a Committee of Council named, upon the ninth of *October* 1666. Consisting of the Archbishop of *Glasgow*, the Duke of *Hamilton* the Earl of *Linlithgow*, Sir *John Gilmore*, Lord President of the Session, Sir *Archibald Primrose*, Lord Register, and Sir *John Nisbet* Lord Advocate; they brought in the ensuing Proclamation, which was emitted the eleventh of *October*, 1666. and which became the Foundation thereafter of all Obligations, laid by the Council upon Heretors and Masters, to answer for their Tenents and Servants, and the Act of Parliament there cited, is deduced in the preface of the Proclamation as a sufficient Warrant for the Council to fine, confine, and punish corporally all who separate from, or disobey Ecclesiastical Authority, and in which the Council then Ordains, such as refuse the Band to be charged, and denounced, Tenents to be removed, and their Tacks to be declared null without Process of Law, and many other things very observable. Which Lords above-named, and many others do subscribe the Warrant.

A P R O C L A M A T I O N,

For procuring obedience to *Ecclesiastical Authority*.

Edinburgh, the 11. day of October, one thousand six hundred and sixty six.



CHARLES, by the Grace of GOD, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, To Masters of Our Privy Council, and Messengers at Arms, Our Sheriffs in that part, conjunctly and severally, specially constitute, Greeting: Forasmuch as by the first Act of the third Session of Our late Parliament, Entitled, *Act against separation and disobedience to Ecclesiastical Authority*, it is recommended to the Lords of Our Privy Council to take speedy and effectual course that the said Act, injoyning obedience to the Government of the Church, as it is now settled by Law, receive due and ready obedience from all Subjects; with power to them to decern and inflict such censures, penalties and corporal punishments, as they shall think fit, upon the contraveeners and direct all execution necessary, for making the same effectual, and to do every other thing needful for procuring obedience to the said Act, and putting the same to punctual execution, conform to the tenor and in-

tent thereof. And by divers other Acts of Parliament and Council, made against Papists, Quakers, and other disaffected persons, they are commanded, under great pains and penalties, to frequent the Ordinances, in hearing Sermon and partaking of the Sacraments, and all other acts of publick Worship at their own Paroch churches, and not to keep any private Meetings or Conventicles: Nevertheless, the saids Acts have not received that vigorous execution and obedience in some parts of the Kingdom, which might have been given, if Masters of Families, Heretors and Landlords in the Countrey, and Magistrates within Burghs-royal, had been careful and zealous in their stations in procuring obedience from their Servants, Tennents and Inhabitants over whom they have power and jurisdiction; So that it is more then high time to prevent the increase and spreading of these disorders, which by evil example, might poyson and infect these that are yet sound in their Principles and well-affect to Our Government. Our Will Is Herefore, and We charge you straitly and command, that incontinent, these Our Letters seen, ye pass to the Mercat-crofs of Edinburgh, remanent head Burghs of the severall Shires and other places needful, and there, by open Proclamation, in Our Name and Authority, command and charge all Masters of Families, that they cause their Domestick-Servants, Griefes, Chamberlains, and others entertained by them, to give obedience to Our Laws foresaid and Acts of Council; and particularly that they frequent the publick Worship and Ordinances at their own Paroch churches, and participate of the Sacraments, and abstain from all Conventicles and private Meetings, and that they retain none in their service but such as they will be answerable for; and in case of their disobedience, that they remove them out of their service immediatly after intimation thereof by the Minister of the Paroch: As also, that all Heretors, Landlords and Life-renters, who have granted any Tacks or Rentals to their Tennents, which are yet standing unexpired, cause their Tennents and Rentallers give sufficient bond and surety for obeying the saids Acts of Parliament and Council, and specially for frequenting publick Worship and Ordinances, as said is, and abstaining from private Meetings; and if need be, that they raise Letters under the Signet of Our Privy Council, and charge them, for that effect, upon six dayes, and in case of disobedience, to denounce them to Our Horn and registrate the same; for which end, warrant is given to direct Letters in their name against all and sundry their Tennents and Rentallers: And We do declare, that We will give and bestow the Escheats falling to Us by the saids Hornings, upon the Landlords and Setters of these Tacks and Rentals, in so far as may be extended thereto; recommending hereby to Our Thesaurer-principal and Thesaurer-depute, and others of Our Exchequer, to grant the same accordingly: And in case the Tennents be removeable and refuse to give obedience, that they warn and pursue them to remove, and obtain Decrees of ejection against them; and that no Heretor, Landlord or Life-renter, set their Lands hereafter to any person, by Word or Writ, but to such as they will be answerable for, as said is: and that they take surety from them by provisions and obligements to be insert in their Tacks, or otherwayes by Bond apart, in case ~~there be~~ no Writ, that the saids Tacksmen, Rentallers and all others their Hindes, Cottars and Servants, who shall live under them upon the saids Lands, shall give obedience in manner foresaid; otherwayes, that their Tacks, Rentals and whole Interest, Right and Possession shall be void and expire, *ipso facto*, as if they had never been granted, and that without any Declarator or farther Process, and then as now, and now as then, that they shall renounce all Right that they shall have thereto, and shall remove themselves without any warning; and in case of failzie, the Landlords and others are to charge and denounce them in manner foresaid. As likewayes, that all Magistrates of Royal Burroughs take special care and notice and be answerable, that their Burgesses and Inhabitants be obedient to the foresaid Acts of Parliament and Council, and that they cause charge such of them as they shall think fit and are suspected, to give Bond and Surety, as said is; and for the Magistrates own relief, in case they contraveen, and if they failzie, to denounce them in manner foresaid: With certification, that all Masters of Families, Landlords and Magistrates of Burghs, who shall not give punctual obedience in manner above-written, that they shall be liable to the same pains and penalties due to the Contraveenors; but prejudice alwayes proceeding against the Contraveenors themselves, and inflicting the saids pains, and all other pains contained in any Act of Parliament or Council heretofore made against Papists, Quakers and persons disobedient: Certifying also all concerned, that the Lords of Our Privy Council will not only take special care to secure the publick Peace, but also to discover all secret attempts and designs to disturb the same, and to punish all persons that shall be found guilty, according to the quality of their offence. And ordains these presents to be printed and published, that none pretend ignorance.

**A Proclamation, For bringing in A R M S out of some Western Shi
Edinburgh, the 25. of March. 1687.**



H A R L E S, by the Grace of GOD, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith. To Our Lovits,

Messengers, Our Sheriffs in that part, conjunctly and severally, specially constitute, Greeting: Forasmuch as the late Rebellion, and rising in Arms in the Western Shires, is too great an evidence that there are many disaffected Persons in these Places, who are ready to involve the Kingdom again in a bloody and unnatural War: And that We have just reason to suspect that these Rebels will be ready to lay hold on this opportunity, to rise in Arms, when We are necessitate to continue the War with Our Forraign Enemies. And not only to make use of such Arms, Powder and Ammunition, as they have concealed, or may be transported to them

from Our Enemies; but will seize upon the Arms of Our well affected Subjects, who reside amongst them, and are not able to make resistance: Which may endanger the Peace of the Kingdom, and weaken Our Forces necessitating them at one time to oppose Forraign Invasions, and Intestine Com-motions. As likewise, that according to their former wicked practices, they may invade the Ministers of the Gospel, who are lawfully admitted Preachers amongst them, and do violence or injury to their Persons, to the great contempt of Our Authority, and scandal of the Reformed Religion, as it is now pro-fest. Therefore, We, with Advice of the Lords of Our Privy Council Command and Charge all persons residing within the Shires of Lanerk, Ayr, Renfrew, Wigton, and the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, betwixt and the first day of May next, to bring in all their Arms and Ammunition which they have in their possession, of whatsoever sort (allowing Gentlemen only to carry Swords, and none other) to the Head Burgh of the respective Shires and Stewartry; and deliver the same to the Sheriff, his Depute, or any having his Order. With Certification to them, if they failie, they shall be Fyned by Our Secret Council in the sums of Money underwritten; viz. *Ilk Gentleman*, in the sum of two thousand Merks; and every other person, in the sum of five hundred Merks; to be divided, the one half to be paid to Our Ex-chequer, and the other half to any person who shall first discover the Concealers: And further, shall be proceeded against as seditious persons, and disaffected to Our Government. Likewise, We ordain the said Sheriff, his Depute, or any other appointed by him, immediately upon the delivery of their said Arms or Ammunition, to carry the same to *Stirling*, or *Dumbarton* Castles, which shall be next adjacent; there to be kept by the Governor thereof. As likewise, We Command and Charge, That all Heretors and Parishioners, residing in any of the Paroches within the saids bounds, Protect and Defend the Per-sons, Families and Goods of their respective Ministers, within their several Paroches, from all Affronts and Injuries to be committed by insolent and disaffected Persons to the present Government, as well when they are in the Exercise of the Ministerial Function, as residing at their own Houses and Dwellings: With certification, that if any Injury or Affront shall be done to them, in their Persons or Goods, that the Pa-rishioners who shall suffer the same to be done, and not oppose the doing thereof, shall be reputed and Hol-den as airt and part of the saids Crimes and Violence, and be proceeded against by Law, as guilty thereof and punished according to the quality of their offence, with all rigour. And in case the saids Injuries shall be done by surprisal, That they follow and pursue the committers thereof, untill they apprehend their Persons, and present them to Our Secret Council, to be judged by them, as they shall order: Other-wise We declare, that they themselves shall be lyable for such Reparation, Damage and Interest, as the saids Lords of Council shall think fit to determine. And Ordains the saids Sheriffs to cause intimate these presents, by publick Proclamation, at the Mercat-Crosses of the head Burghs of the saids respec-tive Shires and Stewartry: and cause read the same at all the Paroch Churches within the saids Shires and Stewartry, upon a Sunday before noon, after Divine Service, with all diligence: And that these pre-sents be printed, that none pretend ignorance.

*Hamilton,
Linlithgow,
Dumfries,
Annandale,
Dumlanerk,*

*Bellenden,
Dalryell,
W. Drummond,
Jo. Gilmour,
Wauchope,
Ch. Maitland.*

Upon the third of September, 1667. the Earl of Arber His Majesties Commissioner being present, a very frequent Councill consisting of the Archbishops of St. Andrews and Glasgow, the Duke of Hamilton, the Marquess of Montrose, the Earls of Kelly, Weems, Airly, Callender, Anandale, Tweedail, Kincardin, and Dundee, the Lord Drumlanerk, now Earl of Queensberry, the Lords Sinclair, Cochran, Bellenden, General Dalryell, Lieutenant General Drummond, Sir John Gilmor, Lord President of the Session, Sir Archibald Primrose, Lord Register, Sir John Nisbet, Lord Advocate, the Lord Justice-Clerk, Sir Robert Murray, Sir James Lockart of Lie, the Laids of Haltoun and Nidderie, and Sir Robert Murray of Priest-field, did among many other Proposals, offer to the Kings Majestie, this following Article,

That such Noblemen and Gentlemen, Heretors, and Fewars, who shall subscribe Bands for blank sumes of money for themselves, and their respective Tenents and servants, to keep the Peace, the saids Noblemen, Gentlemen, Heretors and Fewars, for their Relief and Security, shall have Power and Warrant to take Bands from their Tenents and Servants, for blank sumes of money, not to rise in Arms against, or without the Kings Authority, and not to buy any Arms, or keep horses above the value of threescore pounds Scots, with power to disarm their Tenents; And if they refuse to give Bands as said is, In that case, if they have no Tacks or Rentals, that they remove them from their Possessions, and if they have standing Tacks or Rentalls for years yet to run, that they raise Letters, and charge them for that effect, under the Signet of the Privy Councel, for which these shall be a sufficient Warrant to the Clerk thereof, to grant the same, and shall cause denounce them Rebels, and put them to the Horn, whereupon it is declared, That their Masters shall have the Gift of their single or Life-rent Escheat, status in so far as may be extended to the Rooms and Possessions, belonging to their Masters.

The preceeding Proclamations and Proposals, are Extracted out of the Records of the Privy Councill, by me

At Gibson, Cl. Sec. Concill.



